

APPENDIX 22
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL #1
RIPARIAN AREAS

GOAL: Improve or maintain riparian areas.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Establish or maintain diverse willow stands within the Green Mountain Common Allotment where these stands have historically and are currently able to occur by the year 2007. Key areas, components (number, age-class, and height of willows), and percent of improvement of components will be established following collection of data on existing willow communities.
2. Maintain or improve native sedge communities within the Green Mountain Common Allotment by the year 2007. Key areas, percent improvement by key area, the component (presence or absence of species or litter), and the current sedge community will be established or described following collection of data on existing sedge communities.
3. Restore or maintain shallow ground water tables in association with riparian areas by the year 2007. Key areas, percent improvement (or increase in elevation) of seasonal water levels, and current seasonal ground water levels will be established following collection of data on current ground water levels.
4. Maintain and preserve quantity and quality of permanent spring sources in the Green Mountain Common Allotment by the year 2007. Identification of sources and methods for protection and management will be an ongoing activity throughout the life of the plan.

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Develop and identify site specific management objectives through an interdisciplinary resource management planning process for the GMC Allotment.
2. Discuss with affected interests and interested publics the development of management objectives and proposed riparian projects to help meet these objectives.
3. Develop a new grazing management prescription in conjunction with riparian improvement projects and water development projects.
4. Provide alternative water sources for the use of livestock, wild horses, and wildlife that will enable rest or reduced use of riparian habitats by those species. Alternative water sources may include spring developments, wells, pipe-lines, reservoirs, pits, and guzzlers.
5. Develop riparian (breeding or holding) pastures to provide needed rest or deferment from season long grazing on high value riparian habitats.
6. Utilize herding and/or fencing to provide rest or deferment from livestock grazing during critical periods of plant growth.
7. Protect important spring sources through the installation of protective fencing.

8. Install gradient control structures along important riparian areas to reduce or stop migration of headcuts along riparian areas. Headcuts result in the lowering of water tables.
9. Review current livestock turnout dates and adjust if resource damage in riparian areas is occurring.
10. Alternate livestock turnout dates and location.
11. Maintain wild horse populations within approved AMLs.
12. Develop additional water sources/wetlands to benefit other resources such as fisheries, waterfowl, game and nongame birds.
13. Utilize plantings of woody species (willow) where the potential for establishment of these species naturally occur.

GOAL #2 WILD HORSES

GOAL: Maintain wild horses within appropriate management levels (AMLs).

OBJECTIVE: Maintain viable populations of wild free roaming horses in a multiple use setting that will provide for a thriving natural ecological balance within each herd area. The following table depicts the herd areas within the Green Mountain Common Allotment.

Herd Area	AML	Timeframe to reach AML
Green Mountain	170 – 300	1997
Crooks Mountain	65 – 100	1998
Antelope Hills	60 – 82	1998

GOAL #3 WATER SOURCES

GOAL: Improve the distribution of water sources

OBJECTIVE: Design, construct, and maintain cost effective water developments that accomplish multiple use objectives.*

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Develop and identify management objectives through an interdisciplinary resource management planning process for the allotment.

2. Develop and incorporate site-specific management objectives in the proposed allotment management plan.

*3. Discuss with interested publics the development of management objectives and the proposed water projects to help meet these objectives.

*4. Develop a new grazing management prescription in conjunction with water development projects.

5. Consider different types of water developments and their relative costs that would achieve essentially the same management objectives.

6. Inventory existing water developments in the GMC allotment to determine whether new water projects are needed.

7. Develop water sources that will not generate new conflicts in the use of vegetation or habitat.
8. Mitigate potentially adverse impacts through project design and/or operational guidelines.
9. Develop new water sources where it is the most cost-effective strategy of achieving the management objectives.
10. Cost-share the construction and/or reconstruction of water developments wherever feasible.
11. Prioritize the construction and/or reconstruction of water developments according to the management objectives.
12. Conduct site specific technical evaluations and/or feasibility analyses in planning for new water developments.

GOAL #4 DISTRIBUTION OF GRAZING ANIMALS

GOAL: Improve the distribution of grazing animals.

OBJECTIVE: "The ideal distribution of any use of rangeland reduces number and area of places damaged by congestion of animals and people, extends the area of proper use as widely as possible. The objective of distribution management is uniform and moderate or maximum use that does not damage soil and vegetation." (Rangeland Ecology and Management, Heady & Child, 1993).

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Develop and identify management objectives through an interdisciplinary resource management planning process for the GMC allotment.
2. Develop and incorporate site-specific management objectives in the proposed allotment management plan.
3. Discuss with interested publics the development of management objectives and the proposed distribution practices to help meet these objectives.
4. Develop a new grazing management prescription which incorporates distribution management practices.
5. Consider different types of distribution management practices and their relative costs that would achieve essentially the same management objectives.
6. Mitigate potentially adverse impacts through distribution management practices design and/or operational guidelines.
7. Cost-share the construction and maintenance of distribution management practices wherever feasible.
8. Prioritize the distribution management practices according to the management objectives.

9. Conduct site specific technical evaluations and/or feasibility analyses in planning for new distribution management practices.

GOAL #5 OPEN SPACE

GOAL: Maintain the open spaces and natural character of the allotment and the uses that are dependent on these values.

OBJECTIVE: Minimize adverse affects on open space and the natural character of the area by carefully analyzing this issue at the design and approval phase of project proposals. Emphasize dispersed rather than developed recreational opportunities.

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Use Visual Resource Management (VRM) program to evaluate all resource development initiatives. VRM assists land managers to design and locate developments (water developments, roads, etc.) so that they have a minimal impact on an area's visual character.
2. Locate industrial roads and access routes 1/4 mile or the distance to the visual horizon, whichever is less, from the National Historic and National Scenic Trails.
3. Minimize the use of fencing.

GOAL #6 PUBLIC ACCESS

GOAL: Maintain public access and dispersed recreational opportunities while respecting private property in the allotment.

OBJECTIVE: Recreation management will emphasize public access, dispersed recreation and interpretation. No need is anticipated for additional campgrounds or other recreational facilities. Interpretation will focus on National Historic Trails, recreational use ethics and the natural history of the area.

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Continue to maintain BLM transportation system and network of primitive roads in the allotment.
2. Utilize positive signing to identify public and private lands.
3. Utilize "Portal Signs" to identify public lands and to convey positive messages about recreational use ethics such as Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace.
4. Support land exchanges that are a benefit to the public and that improve the land ownership pattern in the allotment. "Improvement" means blocking up scattered public land parcels to enhance useability for both public and private lands. Land exchanges are always on an equal value basis and involve two or more willing participants.
5. Obtain public easements across private and state lands when opportunities exist to do so. Easements would only be obtained on a willing buyer/willing seller basis.

6. Motor vehicle use would continue to be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes.

GOAL 7 BIG GAME POPULATIONS

GOAL: Maintain big game populations near objective levels established by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

OBJECTIVE: The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) will use annual hunting seasons to increase or decrease big game herds toward management objectives.

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. The Department will collect annual herd composition and harvest data to estimate population status for antelope (Red Desert and Beaver Rim Herd Units), mule deer (Chain Lakes, South Wind River, and Sweetwater Herd Units), elk (Green Mountain and Steamboat Herd Units) and moose (Lander Herd Unit).
2. The Department will formulate annual hunting season recommendations using the above data and input from sportsmen, landowners, federal agency personnel, and other interested publics.
3. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will review the Department's hunting season recommendations and ultimately set annual hunting seasons.

Goal #8 HABITAT QUALITY

Goal: Maintain or improve habitat quality for plant and animal populations and communities.

Objective: Restore, improve, and maintain habitat conditions to support both plant and animal populations that occur in terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitats within the Green Mountain Common Allotment. These habitats will be capable of sustaining viable populations and a diversity of native and naturalized plant and animal species, including threatened and endangered species, species of special concern, and sensitive species for the long-term.

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Conduct habitat evaluations to determine current habitat quality and identify areas where improvement is needed.
 - a) Identify habitats that need to be improved.
 - b) Determine specific management needed.
 - c) Identify improvements where needed.
 - d) Plan and implement specific improvements.
2. Develop management practices and actions that maintain or enhance habitat quality.
3. Increase the quality of available habitat that will eliminate or reduce the major limiting factors of plant and animal populations and provide for species diversity.
4. Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on habitats by reviewing proposed projects, plans, and activities. Where needed, develop proper mitigative measures to sustain or improve those habitats.

GOAL #9

PROVIDE FORAGE AND WATER FOR LIVESTOCK, WILD HORSES AND BIG GAME ANIMALS

GOAL: Provide adequate forage and water on a sustained-yield basis to satisfy the present management levels of livestock, wild horses and big game animals.

BACKGROUND: The BLM Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP) states that forage will be provided to meet the wildlife population objectives by herd units as outlined in the Wyoming Game and Fish Strategic Plan. Provide enough forage on a sustained-yield basis to satisfy at least the present demands of livestock, wild horses, and wildlife. Determining approximate wildlife numbers on a certain confined area is difficult at best and these figures will continually be adjusted through the public review process as better information and current habitat needs are identified.

OBJECTIVE: The Green Mountain Common Allotment will manage in such a manner that forage will be provided to support approximately 2,960 deer months, 2,270 elk months, 130 moose months, 2,050 antelope months, 35,910 cattle AUM's, 11,451 sheep AUM's, and 3,550 wild horse AUM's on an annual basis.

GOAL #10

WORKABLE SOLUTIONS

GOAL: Provide workable solutions that encourage positive economic impacts on the multiple uses.

OBJECTIVE: Minimize the negative economic impacts of our multiple use decisions.

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. Select management alternatives that are the most cost effective and weigh long-term benefits against short-term benefits.
2. For those management actions which could have a negative impact, implementation will be on a time schedule to mitigate economic hardships on the entities directly involved.

GOAL #11

SOILS

GOAL: Maintain and improve soil productivity and minimize soil erosion.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop erosion and sediment movement prevention and amelioration plans for each grazing unit of the Green Mountain Common Allotment or upon plan establishment.
2. Stabilize whenever economically feasible head cuts that are now affecting or will affect important ground water recharge, upland, riparian, or wetland areas of the Green Mountain Common Allotment, and to have them controlled by the year 2004.
3. Maintain or improve soil organic matter in topsoils, by the year 2004, wherever important ground water recharge, grazing, riparian and wetland habitat, big game habitat, sage grouse rearing areas, or valuable plant assemblages, exist in the Green Mountain Common Allotment.

THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES MEAN THAT:

The hydrologic cycle will be supported by providing for water capture, storage, and sustained release. Adequate energy flow and nutrient cycling through the system will be achieved as optimal plant growth occurs. Plant communities are highly varied within Wyoming.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Water infiltration rates
- Soil compaction
- Erosion (rills, gullies, pedestals, capping)
- Soil micro-organisms
- Vegetative cover
- Bare ground and litter

Management Strategy: Maintain and/or reclaim surface disturbing activities where soil movement impacts soil productivity and/or water quality water quality is impaired or soil movement is obvious. (Maintenance items will be carried out promptly (within the terms of cooperative management agreements) and reclamation items will be prioritized and reclaimed according to an agreed reclamation schedule.)

GOAL #12 IMPROVE OR MAINTAIN UPLAND PLANT COMMUNITIES

GOAL: Improve or maintain upland plant communities so that they are diverse and able to recover from disturbance.

OBJECTIVE: Evaluate current data and establish studies where data are insufficient to establish parameters for the following objectives.

1. Maintain or increase the frequency of key species, at key areas, selected by a Technical Review Team (TRT). (Evaluation of this objective will be determined by the grazing program selected and grazing cycle developed).
2. Maintain or increase the density of key species, at key areas, selected by a TRT. (Evaluation of this objective will be determined by the grazing program selected and grazing cycle developed).
3. Maintain or improve trend in all upland plants including key browse communities, based on live canopy cover and density measurements. The objective is to maintain or expand live canopy cover and reduce number of decadent plants on key areas by December, 2018.
4. Determine percent cover at key areas by December, 2018. Plant canopy cover supports watershed integrity. The root systems and above ground portions of plants enhance the hydraulic resistance of moving water and directly influences watershed stability, water infiltration into the soil is increased and surface runoff is decreased.
5. Based on determinations in objective #4, percent cover will be maintained (when measured) or improved (when remeasured) by December, 2027.

GOAL #13 WATER QUALITY

GOAL: The public lands will be managed in a manner that will protect and improve the quality of the water resources on the public lands.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Water on public lands will be maintained equal to or above legal water quality criteria.
2. Improve the water quality of those public land waterbodies that are determined to be impaired in their designated beneficial uses by WDEQ following the mandated procedures of the Clean Water Act as carried through under Wyoming State statute.

THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES MEAN THAT:

Natural processes and human actions influence the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water. Water quality varies from place to place with the seasons, the climate, and the kind of substrate through which water moves. Therefore, the assessment of water quality takes these factors into account.

INDICATORS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Chemical characteristics (e.g., pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen)
- Physical characteristics (e.g., sediment, temperature, color)

invertebrates, fecal coliform, and plant and animal species)

Monitoring: Periodically evaluate the Green Mountain Common Allotment (GMC) streams using WDEQ approved/acceptable methods.

GOAL #14 SHARING EXPENDITURES ON RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS

GOAL: Share expenditures on rangeland improvements by all concerned interests wherever possible.

OBJECTIVE: Distribute the costs associated with existing or new rangeland improvements and management actions to the beneficiary(ies).

STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1. BLM, in cooperation with project proponent(s), will accurately measure the benefits of each rangeland improvement and/or management action and seek prior agreement on prorated costs by all concerned interests.
2. BLM shall document all contributions of funds, labor, and materials to ensure proper credit is given to the project contributors. Maintenance responsibility will be agreed to prior to project construction.
3. Beneficiaries may need to be identified for smaller management areas of the allotment.

Goal #15
EDUCATION/INFORMATION

Goal: Maintain open honest and constructive communication within the Green Mountain Common Allotment Committee and the public. Foster understanding, involvement, and cooperation in resource management.

Objective: Increase public and committee awareness of resource management issues, programs, and accomplishments in the Green Mountain Common allotment.

Strategies or Management Actions:

1. Utilize the education/information subcommittee to review all forms of public and media presentations.
2. Utilize media and public presentations to promote awareness of management programs.
3. Utilize signing, viewing sites or other techniques to promote public awareness of management programs.
4. Actively offer presentations to public schools concerning issues on the Green Mountain Common allotment utilizing expertise of the involved parties.

LANDER RMP/RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives (Appendix 1) were used in conjunction with management objectives listed in the Lander RMP to develop the various alternatives presented in this analysis.

The GMCA was categorized in the Lander RMP as a moderate priority category I allotment. The following factors were used in the categorization of this allotment:

1. Vegetative Production is not satisfactory.
2. Forage competition between grazing animals.
3. Distribution of grazing animals not satisfactory.
4. Turnout dates not consistent with range readiness.
5. Conflicts with other land uses.
6. Potential for positive economic return on public investments.

The following Management Objectives were developed in the Green Mountain MFP and were later incorporated into the 1987 Lander RMP.

A. Management Objectives

1. Improve distribution of grazing animals to more evenly utilize available forage in the allotment.
2. Manage the wild horses in the allotment at the appropriate management levels (AMLs) for the Green Mountain, Antelope Hills and Crook Mountain herd unit as follows:

Herd Area	Lower Limit	Median Population	Upper Limit
Green Mountain	170	245	345
Antelope Hills	35	45	65
Crooks Mountain	65	73	83
Total	270	363	493

3. Maintain or improve the riparian communities in the allotment.
4. Coordinate all management objectives with wildlife habitat quality and population management objectives.

5. Monitor trend in the allotment to assess the effects of planned actions once they have been implemented.
6. Improve forage production to satisfactory levels.
7. Adjust turnout dates and seasons of use to be consistent with range readiness and sound range management principles.